| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jharkhand | 1.63 | 1.60 | 0.71 | 0.68 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Orissa | 4.44 | 4.21 | 1.16 | 1.03 | 0.85 | 0.75 |
| West Bengal | 12.28 | 11.94 | 3.99 | 3.54 | 2.78 | 2.51 |
| Assam & Other N.E. | 2.67 | 2.47 | 0.27 | 0.24 | 0.59 | 0.54 |
| Other Total | 0.90 | 0.90 | 0.17 | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.13 |
| ALL INDIA: | 254.79 | 244.52 | 77.57 | 69.75 | 24.82 | 23.17 |

**More power to NPPA in checking price**

620. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two recent decisions by Government to lower the permissible price increase in a year from 20 per cent to 10 per cent and to give more freedom to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in pursuing cases of violation are proving to be more simple and effective in checking price increases;

(b) whether Government have so far issued 331 notices to companies asking them to explain price increases beyond the allowed limit; and

(c) if so, what are the other steps Government propose to take against those companies who have not so far reduced the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Government has delegated powers to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) for fixation of prices of non-Scheduled formulations under Para 10(b) of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). Further, Government has also reduced the permissible price increase limit in 12 calendar months from 20 per cent to 10 per cent for more effective check on price increases.

On the basis of ORG-IMS monthly report NPPA has detected 229 cases under the 20% price increase parameter and 147 cases upto May, 2007 in the category of 10% price increase in 12 months. Thus a total of 376 notices have been issued by NPPA to companies asking them to explain the price increase beyond the permissible limit.

The companies are asked to explain with proper justification for price increase beyond the permissible limit. If the companies are unable to justify the price increase or reduce the price increase to a level below the permissible limit, NPPA fixes prices of that medicine under para 10(b) of DPCO 1995. During the current financial year, NPPA has fixed the price of 20 medicines under para 10(b) of DPCO 1995.